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Haliburton needs bin for used needles: health unit

CHAD INGRAM
Staff Reporter

Anyone who thinks there’s not a drug problem in Haliburton County should probably think again.

Francine Fernandes, a public health nurse with the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, paid a visit to Dysart et al councillors during their Dec. 18 meeting. The health unit wants to install a disposal bin for used needles in Head Lake Park. It seems there are a number in the community using intravenous drugs and discarding needles in public places.

As Fernandes explained, the health unit in partnership with a local pharmacy, provides kits with clean needles to drug users.

“We’re basically providing people with clean needles,” Fernandes said. She added that no one is going to stop anyone who wants to from using street drugs, so the idea of the health unit’s harm reduction work is to make that drug usage as safe as possible, thereby decreasing risk of diseases such as Hepatitis C.

see SINCE page 2



Reindeer takes flight

Dasher the reindeer, played by Adam Pellerine, readies for flight, as Michael Bennett Leroux creates a snow scene during the staging of *’Twas the Night Before Christmas* in the gym at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School in Haliburton. Organized and sponsored by the Canadian Parents for French Haliburton chapter, the performance featured the dynamic Dufflebag Theatre performers. More on page 9.

/DARREN LUM Staff

Haliburton Dinner Jacket in national spotlight

SUE TIFFIN
Staff Reporter

Imagine Matt Duchene’s amusement to see a sign being held by a young Ottawa Senators fan with a shout-out to a hometown joke.

“If Matt Duchene scores, Dad will buy us Haliburton Dinner Jackets,” read the sign, which was captured in a photo

Duchene posted to social media.

“Easily the best sign I’ve ever seen... great job, kid!” he posted alongside the photo on Instagram. “Way too funny and made me feel right at home.”

The photo, with a #haliburtondinner-jacket hashtag, was liked almost 17,000 times, bringing attention to a longtime gag that a red and black plaid shirt can be considered formal wear in cottage country.

The Haliburton Dinner Jacket was also

in the national spotlight when Tara Slone and Ron MacLean, visiting Haliburton for Hometown Hockey, wore shirts on air gifted to them by Suzanne and Walt McKechnie.

“I thought, they should take something home that would make them think of Haliburton, and the Haliburton Dinner Jacket came to mind,” said Suzanne.

see RED page 11



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Since June, 6,000 needles handed out in Haliburton

from page 1

Between June and Dec. 15, 6,000 needles were handed out at the Haliburton pharmacy.

"For anybody who thinks there isn't drugs in Haliburton, I hate to tell you, but there is," Fernandes told councillors.

"Holy cow," uttered Mayor Murray Fearrey.

The bin the health unit would like to install is similar to a mailbox, weighs about 200 pounds and would be bolted to either a concrete slab or a building and use a double-lock system.

"They are very safe," Fernandes told council.

With a capacity of about 6,000 needles, the bins would be emptied by health unit staff.

The bins are common in larger centres. Fernandes said

there about 100 of them stationed throughout the city of Ottawa.

"People need somewhere to put their needles," Fernandes said, explaining the secure bins keep used needles out of the regular garbage cans in a community.

Dysart parks and rec staff have found used needles in the garbage cans in Head Lake Park, and at least one along Highland Street.

"Would that not lead to encouraging drug users to use that particular spot?" asked Councillor Susan Norcross.

"That's definitely a valid question," Fernandes told Norcross. "We'll often hear, 'doesn't this encourage drug use?' It doesn't because it's already happening."

Fernandes said bins are located in areas where the health unit is aware that drug use is happening anyway.

"It's an astounding number of people using them,"

Fearrey said.

It's likely many of the needles are being used for fentanyl, a powerful drug that is causing what many health and social services workers are calling an epidemic across the country. During 2017, health agencies across the country have indicated that several Canadians are dying each day from fentanyl use. Fernandes said often with fentanyl addiction, it begins when someone is prescribed the drug by a doctor for medical reasons. Many fentanyl users are functioning members of society, she said.

"Sadly, I think this is a very good idea," said Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts. "It's sad the numbers are what they are."

"It's a sad day when you hear this sort of thing," said Fearrey. Council referred the issue to municipal staff.

Rib festival to turn up heat in Haliburton's Head Lake Park

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Dec. 18 meeting of Dysart et al council.

Head Lake Park is likely to host a rib festival Aug. 24 to 26. Rick Brooks of BWG Events, a not-for-profit events organization based out of Bradford-West Gwillimbury, came to the council table looking for support for what would be Haliburton Ribfest.

Brooks founded the ribfest in Bradford, which eventually grew into the Innisfil Ribfest and Music Festival.

"It outgrew itself," Brooks told councillors. The summer event attracts some 30,000 people.

The vision for Haliburton would be to start small, bringing in three professional rib teams, as well as brewers and entertainment.

Local company Ski Mazing Watersports would also be involved, offering its activities on Head Lake.

Brooks is hoping the event will attract 5,000 to 8,000 people over the course of the weekend.

"We like to work with local breweries," said Brooks, adding he intended to approach the county's microbreweries about getting on board.

There would be concerts by tribute bands, as well as a wrestling show. There would be a \$3 cover charge for entry, to help offset costs for BWG.

"This is a very expensive event to put on," Brooks said, explaining there are operating expenses such as security to be paid for.

BWG also looks after clean-up. "We pride ourself on having a clean event," Brooks said.

Councillors were supportive.

"I like your \$3 admission to get in," said Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts. "I think that's really reasonable."

"Sounds like you're good to go," said Mayor Murray Fearrey. Operating as a not-for-profit, BWG donates a portion of gate proceeds to groups in the communities where it hosts events.

For Haliburton Ribfest, Brooks said the intention is for that donation to go to Dysart et al's skateboard park project.

Soap hockey scheduled for July 6-8 in Haliburton

"I've heard the question 100, if not 1,000 times, what is soap hockey," John Teljeur told councillors.

Teljeur operates the Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships in Haliburton each winter.

This summer, Teljeur plans to bring the World Soap Hockey Championships to Head Lake Park.

Soap hockey is played by barefoot players, sliding around on soaped up, industrial-sized tarps. They play with plastic sticks and a ball, sliding around while wearing helmets.

"It's comical, it's creative and it does capture your attention," Teljeur said. He hopes the popularity of the pond hockey tournament will bring some of those players back to the community in the summer for soap hockey. The tournament would run July 6 to 8.

Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts wondered about using so much soap so close to Head Lake.

"We recognize that's an issue," Teljeur said, adding he's looking for an environmentally friendly product to use. There will also be portable showers so players can rinse off, instead of just jumping into the lake.

"This is really positive, in my opinion," Mayor Murray Fearrey said of the event.

Savage pre-trial adjourned to new year

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

A judicial pre-trial on Dec. 11 planning for the R.v. William Savage matter was adjourned until the new year.

The continuation of the judicial pre-trial, in which pre-trial matters including time estimates for court scheduling, potential resolutions and outstanding disclosure are generally discussed, will take place on Jan. 4 at 9:30 a.m. in Newmarket.

"Judicial pre-trial meetings are normally conducted in the privacy of judicial chambers, off the record, in order to promote free and full discussions," said Emilie Smith, ministry spokesperson for the Ministry of the Attorney General.

"Neither the public nor media can attend the judicial pre-trial."

At a Sept. 27 pre-trial court date, pre-trial motions were set to begin on Sept. 10, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in Lindsay, with Savage's trial slated for Oct. 22, 2018.

Savage, from Fenelon Falls, was charged with first-degree murder on Oct. 26, 2016, in connection with the death of David Palmer, a 47-year-old man whose remains were found in the Haliburton area in May, 2015.

At the time of the arrest, OPP confirmed that Savage and Palmer were known to each other. Palmer was last seen on Oct. 2, 2015, outside of Pontypool and his vehicle was found on Oct. 14 near Spruce Lake Trail.

With files from Angelica Ingram



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— Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts

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Original opera addresses nation’s history

Following the acts of colonization, the settlers, represented by Lauren Margison, left, and Nathan Keoughan, right, join the campfire with Indigenous people. At back with walking stick is Andrew Balfour, composer of the opera. /JENN WATT Staff



Ka’nahsohon Kevin Deer opens the performance of *Mishaabooz’s Realm* at a dress rehearsal in Haliburton on Dec. 20. The original opera was written by Andrew Balfour and produced by Highlands Opera Studio in collaboration with L’Atelier Lyrique, L’Opéra de Montréal. /

Baritone Nathan Keoughan and soprano Lauren Margison perform in the first act of *Mishaabooz’s Realm* during dress rehearsal on Dec. 20. The performance was divided into creation, colonization and hope for the future and explored issues facing Indigenous people in Canada. Valerie Kuinka was stage director.



Local performers play French settlers in a scene of *Mishaabooz’s Realm*, an original opera produced by Highlands Opera Studio. The production was staged in Montreal and Haliburton with local performances at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion Dec. 21 and 22.

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Original opera addresses nation’s history

Following the acts of colonization, the settlers, represented by Lauren Margison, left, and Nathan Keoughan, right, join the campfire with Indigenous people. At back with walking stick is Andrew Balfour, composer of the opera, *Mishaabooz’s Realm*./JENN WATT Staff



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Handmade Christmas ornaments raise over \$2,000 to buy toys for kids

OLIVIA ROBINSON

Special to The Echo

While some kids added one or two toys to their Christmas wish lists, three local kids added more than \$2,000 worth of toys to theirs – donating all of them to children in need.

Brandon Jarvis, blogger of “Right Brained Mom” and her children, daughter Emma Boutin, 14, step-daughter Ella Stamp, 12, and son Sawyer Boutin, 11, raised more than \$2,000 from selling handmade Christmas ornaments. They used the funds to buy toys for kids in their community.

“For a few years, the kids made craft kits and we sold those,” said Jarvis of her kids’ previous holiday initiatives.

Jarvis said that although the craft kits were successful, it was specific to people who had children, or people who enjoyed crafts. This year’s project, she said, appealed to a broader base of people.

Emma, Sawyer and Ella made the ornaments out of slices of birch bark and used a wood-etcher to inscribe “joy” on one side of the ornament, and “peace” on the other.

The kids’ Christmas Toy Drive operation was as organized as Santa’s workshop; Jarvis said that while she told the kids they’d have to do the work themselves, like making ornaments, buying supplies, and mailing out orders, they could use her platform to help sell the ornament.

“The very first day that we put these ornaments out for sale we reached \$1,000,” she said. Jarvis said that the kids’ initial fundraising goal was \$1,000, but then the orders kept on coming.

Jarvis credits the community for the project’s success. Pine Reflections, Rhubarb, Curry Motors, The Pump Shop, and Haliburton Timber Mart all made orders.

“It means a lot to me that these people see that the kids are trying to do something good. They appreciate it and are trying to support them for that reason,” she said.

After the money had been collected, Emma, Ella and Sawyer went shopping at V&S Department Store in Haliburton, where the store gave the kids a discount on the toys. Jarvis said Point in Time

advised the kids on what toys to buy for different age groups, then distributed the toys to families in need around Haliburton County.

Jarvis said that while discussions revolving around kids in the Haliburton community can veer toward the negative, like bullying, it was refreshing to see the community’s reception to Emma, Ella and Sawyer’s Christmas Toy Drive.

“Anytime kids get out in the community and try and do something positive it should be celebrated,” said Jarvis. “It’s not just because it’s my kids, if it’s someone else’s kids, we should celebrate them as well.”

If you want to see more pictures from Emma, Ella and Sawyer’s trip to V&S Department Store, check out Jarvis’s blog at <https://rightbrainedmom.com>. Although the family’s Christmas Toy Drive has wrapped up for the holiday season, Jarvis said that any additional profits made from the kids’ ornaments will go to support the local food bank.



These birch bark ornaments were made by Emma Boutin, Ella Stamp and Sawyer Boutin and sold to raise money to buy toys for kids in need. /Submitted

Haliburton County’s new warden sworn in

NATE SMELLE

Staff Reporter

As the only candidate up for taking over for outgoing warden of Haliburton County, Brent Devolin, Highlands East Deputy Mayor Suzanne Partridge was sworn in as warden on Dec. 12.

Partridge has played a key role in local politics for almost two decades, having served as reeve of Cardiff in the ’90s, prior to amalgamation in Highlands East.

She now shares the honour of becoming only the second deputy mayor in the county’s history – joining former deputy reeve of Dysart et al, Bill Davis – to hold the office. When she learned in late November that she was the sole candidate to put her name forward for the position, Partridge realized that she would most likely be the county’s warden for 2018. Eager to get to work, she indicated that she intends to improve communications.

“I’m excited to take on a new challenge but it’s a little daunting and a steep learning curve,” said Partridge.

“My primary focus will be to keep council informed of my activities and

my participation in the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus.”

Partridge got her start in politics after returning home from studying political science in Rome, Italy during the ’70s. When she arrived back in Canada, she said she was encouraged by a family friend to run for the Haliburton County School Board.

Unsure if she should give it a go, eventually she decided to throw her hat in the ring. From that point on, she has remained engaged in the politics.

“I finally relented, never expecting that I would be elected,” said Partridge.

“Once on the school board, I found that I was really enjoying the stimulation and having a say in the future of our community.”

Politics is not Partridge’s only passion. Having earned a diploma in horticulture at the University of Guelph, she also has an affinity for gardening.

Spending time in the garden as the owner of her own landscaping business, The Secret Gardener, Partridge finds ideas and inspiration while planting seeds in the soil.

“Gardening is a very relaxing and rewarding pursuit,” she said.

“It can clear the mind and allow creativity to flow. I also like the end result: beautiful flowers and great food.”

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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Fair pay

GETTING A PAY increase for Dysart et al councillors is more difficult than one would expect.

Last week's council meeting included a confusing three-way poll on what to do to bring council members within striking distance of the wages their colleagues make. That vote ended in a tie, negating the entire exercise – despite the fact that none of the options on the table was to do nothing.

For years, Dysart's policy has been austerity. Taxes in the municipality are low and with a largely senior population living on fixed incomes, keeping things status quo and predictable has been a good thing.

But unfortunately, because council has worked so hard over the years to keep costs down, it has also chosen not to pay itself nearly as much as other councils within the county.

The discrepancy is wide, particularly in the case of the deputy mayor, a position that requires a significant time commitment and attracts scrutiny beyond what councillors receive.

Dysart et al's deputy mayor makes about \$17,000 a year. Her counterparts in the other three municipalities in Haliburton County receive between \$20,000 and \$22,000.

The gap is a little tighter when it comes to councillors, with Dysart's receiving about \$14,000 compared to between \$16,000 and \$18,500 elsewhere in the county.

The mayor position is nearly on par with its counterparts at \$25,000.

It has also been suggested that councillors have access to a health spending account of up to \$2,000 a year, with funds going back into municipal coffers if they go unused.

Several proposals were on the table last week, distinguished mostly by when changes to compensation would happen. While a stalemate ended up sinking the whole endeavour, it sounds as though this topic will return to the council table sooner than later.

And it should.

Bumping compensation up to levels similar to Dysart's neighbouring municipalities would cost taxpayers an additional \$38,000 a year.

It's been argued that increasing the rates will help attract better candidates to the positions, which might be true.

But what is more compelling is the issue of fairness – what is fair comparatively and what is fair for the work done.

What councillors are paid is not extravagant or excessive. Especially when it comes to the mayor and deputy mayor positions, the public asks a lot for a relatively small sum.

Municipal politicians are on-call all the time. On weekends they attend wedding anniversaries

and cottage association meetings. They read hundred-page council packages and field questions from constituents and reporters. When they're doing their job well, they're up to date on current issues and connected to community members.

Unfortunately, Dysart councillors' compensation has fallen behind other municipalities, putting them in the difficult position of advocating for their own wage increase.

A good solution would be for them to set a fair rate for the next council, eliminating the optics of giving themselves a raise.

If they don't catch up now, the topic is bound to come back until local wages are brought up to the going rate.



jenn watt

Editorial



Morning reach

by Darren Lum

Making music together

THE INVITATION said, "Let's celebrate Sue's birthday. I'll make a Thai curry and cake." And so we gathered. I took a really yummy Thai salad. Another family brought a slow cooker Thai soup with shrimp. Another family came bearing a huge platter of fresh spring rolls. Another came with a delicious appetizer and chocolate. The food is always divine at our potlucks. We have mastered them after almost 30 years of practice. The conversation was interesting. Everything from the impact of online shopping on the environment and our highways, to the Vinyl Cafe that had played that day.

It was the last Christmas story about Dave and Morley that Stuart had performed in Thunder Bay. It is incredible that one man who we have never met could have such a huge impact on us. We laughed as we reminisced about the many Christmas stories that Stuart told. We all still miss him and our Sunday routines of listening.

Then there were heartfelt gifts and cards for the birthday girl. We also still do birthday parties so well after all these years. Then we gathered in the living room to chit chat some more and have some tea.

I was sitting there and thought about what Stuart had said at the end of his final Christmas concert. It was about how there is no better way to build community, to celebrate, to be joyful than to sing together. So I suggested we sing. Out came the eggs, the bells, the sparkly white accordion (oh how we all love that), and mandolin,

guitar and ukulele. And we sang many beautiful songs. Some we have been singing together since we all the met in the mid- to late-'90s. Some are newer songs that we have learned. And my little heart grew 10,000 times. It was just so lovely.

I think my hope for 2018 is that we all have more music in our lives. Perhaps we play the radio and listen. We do have the world's greatest community radio with so many excellent hosts. There is something for everyone. I even heard that a teenager in our community is going to host a show in 2018.

How exciting is that?

If you like to sing there are so many choirs to choose from in the community or at a church. And for those who like to attend concerts our very own Haliburton Folk Society and the Concert Series have so much to offer. 2018

marks the 10th anniversary for the Haliburton County Winter Folk Camp and this year Betty and the Bobs are returning to teach and to perform. I guarantee it will be inspiring.

We all know that life can be so hard at times. We all have our stories and our challenges. Sometimes it can be so incredibly overwhelming and all we can do is keep putting one foot in front of the other and carrying on. And seek joy. Find joy and hang around in joy. Music is joyful. I am incredibly grateful to live in a county that has so much music.

Thank you to everyone who makes it happen! We are all healthier because of it.

Tales from
the great



lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

The Snowshoer versus Bigfoot

NOW THAT winter is here in earnest, my snowshoes are beginning to look a lot less silly. But, unless this year is different, that will change the first time I run into a Bigfoot.

Bigfoot?

Don't be crazy, you say. We don't have any Bigfoots (or is it Bigfeet?) around here. Well, that's true if you are referring to your classic, run of the mill, north woods Bigfoot.

Rest assured, I wasn't born yesterday. I know the cougars ate all those Bigfoots.

What I'm actually referring to is the most frightening Bigfoot of all. The kind that does not possess superhuman strength, massive size, a feral nature or even animal-like ferocity.

Shoot, the ones I'm talking about are not even very elusive.

In fact, you can routinely see them hanging around any groomed snowshoeing trail each winter – and the very sight of them causes experienced snowshoers to panic, high-tail it out of the area or merely avert their gazes. Some snowshoers have even been known to run off of groomed trails and

break a new trail of their own. I once heard tell of a guy who even resorted to cross-country skiing.

These Bigfoots are those folks who walk on snowshoe trails without the benefit of snowshoes. Which wouldn't be so bad, if not for the rest of us.

Over the years, I have had several such encounters in the north woods with these creatures and I still have nightmares about them. There's nothing like an encounter with these lumbering beasts to cause your life to flash before your eyes and make you wake up in the middle of the night thinking, "Exactly how silly did I look out there?"

There is no right answer here. It mostly depends on how much money you have invested in your snowshoes, poles, and harnesses. Or, if you dwell on the fact that this expense is probably four to five times what the snowshoeless fellow sauntering past you has invested in his boots.

The worst part is that these folks seem completely unaware that they are making a mockery of one of the greatest Canadian traditions – finding a plausible reason for strapping big webby platforms to your feet.

Yet, if they are unaware, the rest of us are not.

The mere sight of one of these Bigfoots sauntering ahead on a groomed trail is enough to cause whole groups of snowshoers to throw snowballs or turn 180 degrees and walk quietly away without even acknowledging the painful truth – namely that you don't really need snowshoes to walk on a hard-packed groomed trail.

I've seen grown men cry and demand a rental fee refund.

Too many sightings of these Bigfoots can cause snowshoers to avoid the trail system completely or, as I said, in extreme cases venture off the beaten path to break a trail of their own – which can have disastrous consequences for snowshoe sales.

As any Canadian economist will tell you, if snowshoe sales plummet, we better hope that a few more hockey sticks are broken or there goes our entire winter economy.

The question that has always bothered me is why are these Bigfoots roaming the trails to begin with? I mean, if they are sane enough not to wear snowshoes in the first place, then what are they doing walking around on a five kilometre trail that loops right back to where it began?

I'd ask one, but I can never keep up when I have snowshoes on.

Last winter, I had an opportunity to get a close look at one of these Bigfoots before he made me look like I was standing still. There was something vaguely familiar about the person too.

I was certain, in fact, that I had seen him earlier in the year.

And then it struck me. He is that same #@\$! guy who never wears camouflage or uses a call and gets a turkey every spring.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

This pic of the past comes from Lorna Ramsay of North Bay. It shows the Form IV class of the Haliburton Public School taken on Oct. 18, 1935. Front row from left, Albert Winn, Jack Dart, Ross Johnston, Mickey Yarnold, Ray Logan, Stewart Hadley, Earl Sholer. Second row, seated, Doris McKnight, Jean Billings, Elaine Roberts, Lorna Dean, Molly Zalkin, Doreen Wood, Rosie Pockett, Greta Thompson, Bernice Crarey. Third row, Jean Thomas, Jack Cryderman, May Brohm, Marie Roberts, Mae Quibell, Olive MacDonald, Pearl Morrison, Francis Sproats, Cliff Billings, Wilf Winn. Back row, Mike Biagi, Russell Woodcock, Joe Day, Fred Greer, Murray Johnson, Jack Logan, Floyd Watt, Clair Roberts. Thank you to Lorna for sharing this photo.

The Christmas wish

JO-ANN SLOAN

Special to The Echo

I love Christmas. But I love the Christmas season most of all. With me, it starts the minute I blow out the candle in the Halloween pumpkin.

The Christmas season is all about planning for the holidays. It's about get-togethers with friends. It's about decorating the house inside and out; shopping for gifts for friends and family; baking all those delicious but nasty desserts and cookies that I normally never bake; listening to Christmas music; mailing and receiving Christmas cards and messages from friends and family, attending Christmas concerts; sharing all the excitement and build up to the big day, especially with my grandchildren. My grandchildren will tell you, Nana goes crazy at Christmas and has so many decorations. The spirit hits and hits me hard.

My mother passed away in June this year. She lived a good life with the exception of the past few years enduring her battle with Alzheimer's.

Everyone experiences loss of a loved one in different ways. The Christmas season always remained a special time with my Mom and I. She always knew that I absolutely loved Christmas. Perhaps it had something to do with my December birthday. Our childhood home during the season was filled with

love and entertaining of friends. Their home was open to all and my mother was a great cook. Any of our friends would tell you that. The Christmas Eve buffets were her favourite. My brother and I also shared great memories at Christmas with our grandparents, Italian on one side and Finnish on the other. All of them lived down in the core of Toronto. Mom would take me shopping downtown Toronto in the late fall for my winter coat in one of those shops along Spadina Avenue.

This year, I will admit, it has been a struggle and all those wonderful memories continually fill my head. I am grateful for all of them but the emptiness tugs at my heartstrings. Through the course of this busy season, I tried to find something to buy for myself as I did when Mom was around – just as a combined birthday and Christmas present to me. Some of my gifts are annual items that I love. One day I was in a local store and saw the new Christmas journal magazine. I picked it up and glanced through it and thought, I really would like this but something was telling me not to buy it. On my days of shopping through the next couple of weeks, I passed a store that had a really nice knitted hat – the popular ones with the grey, white and red. Another store, I spotted some sock slippers which I love and thought I could use a new pair of these but I hesi-

see page 9

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A magical Christmas

from page 7

tated on that purchase as well. A scented candle was always another favourite – balsam fir, to be exact. But most of all, my wish and dream is to have a snow-covered ground by my birthday at the beginning of December.

So on my birthday this year, I asked my husband to drive into Toronto with me and go for a tour to find the old homes where my grandparents lived. There was not a dusting of snow anywhere. Somewhere and somehow my memory clicked in the correct address and house number on Ontario Street in Toronto and I also remembered the park, on Logan Avenue directly across the road from my other grandparents' house. Bingo – I found both! I was thrilled. Of course the porch was long gone off the one home on Ontario Street, but I recognized some of the fronts of the row houses along the street and the old building at the corner of Dundas still remains with the lane way where we use to play as kids.

On Logan Avenue, the house was well preserved and today stands in all its glory. A multi-level home perched on a hill. We shared many wonderful Christmas holidays and gatherings at this house with my cousins, aunts and uncles. My grandparents always had the best balsam fir Christmas tree with multi-coloured lights and tinsel too.

We parked the car and I walked around taking pictures. I bravely went to the front door. I lost my nerve to knock on the door, but because there was some glass in the door, I peeked through. The hallway was the same, I spotted the stained glass window – the bathroom window, the grand staircase was the same – all old oak trim – no one touched it but just maintained its grandeur. I was thrilled and extremely emotional. The tears rolled down my face. I sent a quick message to my brother

and he said if he was there he would be crying as well. He asked me if I was able to see a beautiful Christmas tree inside full of tinsel. I said, no, but I bet they have one.

The remainder of the weekend was filled with a wonderful Christmas party with friends and a birthday dinner with my family. But what astounded me through the weekend was the magic that prevailed. I was able to locate these homes without a lot of searching. Hmm. My gift from my daughter and grandchild, was *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Christmas in Canada*. My birthday gifts I received from my friends and without their knowledge of what had been circling in my head during the month surprised me. There it was, the Christmas journal magazine from my one friend along with the balsam fir scented candle. My other friend knitted a new hat with the exact colours of the ones I had been looking at during my shopping days and also in the same gift pack was a new pair of knitted slippers! We all celebrated and I enjoyed the times and all of their wonderful gifts.

It was a busy weekend and we ventured home the next day to our home in Haliburton. There had been not a drop of snow in Toronto but as we drove through the town of Minden and continued home to Haliburton, the snow came down in all its glory. The next morning was magical – snow everywhere.

I thought to myself – I received my special Christmas book, my special Christmas magazine and scented candle, my new hat and new slippers. Someone knew what I wanted. Someone guided me to the old Toronto homes. Someone remembered how special this season is to me. Did I receive all of these via my Mom topped off with the glorious winter wonderland outside? Who knows?

Thanks, Mom. Merry Christmas to you and thanks for my Christmas Wish.



Theatre group gets students in the spirit

Santa Claus, played by Grade 7 student Landon Chaulk, embodies jolly St. Nick during an interpretation of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas in the gym at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School in Haliburton. Organized and sponsored by the Canadian Parents for French Haliburton chapter, the performance featured the dynamic Dufflebag Theatre performers, who had a morning show for students from neighbouring Stuart Baker Elementary School and midday show for students of JDHES. Landon's peers, Taylor Horsley and Megan Mould also performed, portraying Mrs. Sandy Claus and Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer. /DARREN LUM Staff



Santa's elves, played by Adam Pellerine, left, and Michael Bennett Leroux, perform a scene about making toys for Christmas.



Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, played by Megan Mould, rams into Old Man Winter during the staging 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

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Red and black plaid never goes out of style

from page 1

"We just had to find the right lumber-jacket. I kept sending Walt into town to get the right jacket, the traditional lumberjacket, which he found at Bernstein's."

With the help of a seamstress in Eagle Lake, a black and white paisley pattern was added to the collar and cuffs.

"It kind of made it into a sort of country-city combination," said Suzanne. "I just wanted it to be a little more modern, bring it up to date a little bit and put a little twist on it."

Suzanne said she thought it was bit of Haliburton culture that she remembers as a child growing up in the area, that the hosts could take with them. She was happily surprised to see them wear the "dinner jackets" during the live broadcast across the nation.

"We told them, if you have one of these, you can go anywhere in Haliburton," she said.

Laurie Bonfield at Country Pickin's has been selling red and black plaid clothing – everything from socks, scarves, vests, sweaters, pajamas and flannel shirts – for decades.

"It never goes out, ever," said Bonfield, who sources the items from Woolrich, where the iconic pattern originated in 1850.

"For over 165 years, Woolrich has produced the Buffalo Check pattern at our woolen mill in central Pennsylvania," reads the Woolrich website, which states the Buffalo Check Wool Shirt was the first article of clothing featuring the pattern. "An instant hit with workers and outdoorsmen alike, the rugged piece became synonymous with quality and dependability."

Woolrich said the history of the pattern can be traced back to the 1700s, at least, and is known as MacGregor Red and Black by the Scottish Tartans Authority. Though it's unknown how the pattern came to North America, Woolrich claims it was their idea to start using it.

"The name [Buffalo Check] seems to connote the wild open spaces of the west," reads the Woolrich site. "Legend has it that the Woolrich designer who first introduced the distinctive pattern back in 1850 owned a herd of buffalo – nothing more complicated than that. The name stuck and the rest is history."

"It's weekend wear, cottage wear, outdoor wear, it's just a classic," said Bonfield, who sells out of clothing featuring the red and black pattern regularly and said it's one of her No. 1 sellers. "It's one of the staples. I've got a feeling it always will be."

Sterling Nesbitt and her fellow teammates on the Oshawa Lady Generals Bantam A team are now proud wearers of the Haliburton Dinner Jacket after Stedman's

was able to order a big supply of the shirt for the team.

"We are proud to call Haliburton County home, with the town of Minden being our hometown," wrote her dad Wyatt on social media.

"We are fortunate to have businesses in our area making sure these girls, who they have never met yet, receive a gift that will turn into an adventure with lifelong memories."

The girls will wear the Haliburton Dinner Jackets to a Senators game on Feb. 1, where they'll have the chance to meet with Duchene. No word on whether he'll be wearing one, too, although he did tell the *Ottawa Sun* he has a couple in the closet that he usually wears fishing.

"I think everyone has one somewhere around the house," said Suzanne.



Matt Duchene, recently traded to the Ottawa Senators, appreciated the sign of a young fan making reference to a local joke from Haliburton, Duchene's hometown. /Photo from Matt Duchene's Instagram page

Seventeen members of the Oshawa Lady Generals Bantam A team, including Minden player Sterling Nesbitt, were thrilled to be gifted a Haliburton Dinner Jacket each from Haliburton's Stedman's V&S to wear to an Ottawa Senators game in the new year. The girls will have the chance to meet and have a team pic with Matt Duchene, an Ottawa Senators player from Haliburton, after the game. /Submitted photo



Women Who Care about dental health

At their fourth meeting of the year, 52 members of giving circle/fundraising group 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County chose to support Volunteer Dental Outreach with their collective donation, a total of \$5,050. Joan Featherstone, left, and Tina Palmer, in chair, of 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County joined Sandra Slauenwhite-Box of Volunteer Dental Outreach (VDO) and 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County, and Lisa Kerr, Alana Bannister, Melanie Aldom and Brigitte Gebauer of VDO to celebrate the donation. "They come from the county so they know what the needs of the county are," said Featherstone of the Women Who Care members, who join at one-hour meetings to hear from group nominated charities, choosing one charity to give their amassed donations of up to \$100 each. They meet again in March and welcome new members. For more info, contact curriejif@gmail.com. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Wishing You A Safe & Happy Holiday

Holiday Hours

Please note the office of the Haliburton County Echo will be closed
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The Minden Times will be Closed
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from page 1

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Woolrich said the history of the pattern can be traced back to the 1700s, at least, and is known as MacGregor Red and Black by the Scottish Tartans Authority. Though it's unknown how the pattern came to North America, Woolrich claims it was their idea to start using it.

"The name [Buffalo Check] seems to connote the wild open spaces of the west," reads the Woolrich site. "Legend has it that the Woolrich designer who first introduced the distinctive pattern back in 1850 owned a herd of buffalo – nothing more complicated than that. The name stuck and the rest is history."

"It's weekend wear, cottage wear, outdoor wear, it's just a classic," said Bonfield, who sells out of clothing featuring the red and black pattern regularly and said it's one of her No. 1 sellers. "It's one of the staples. I've got a feeling it always will be."

Sterling Nesbitt and her fellow teammates on the Oshawa Lady Generals Bantam A team are now proud wearers of the Haliburton Dinner Jacket after V&S Sted-

man's donated 17 shirts to the team.

"We are proud to call Haliburton County home, with the town of Minden being our hometown," wrote her dad Wyatt on social media.

"We are fortunate to have businesses in our area making sure these girls, who they have never met yet, receive a gift that will turn into an adventure with lifelong memories."

The girls will wear the Haliburton Dinner Jackets to a Senators game on Feb. 1, where they'll have the chance to meet with Duchene. No word on whether he'll be wearing one, too, although he did tell the *Ottawa Sun* he has a couple he usually wears fishing.

"I think everyone has one somewhere around the house," said Suzanne.



Matt Duchene, recently traded to the Ottawa Senators, appreciated the sign of a young fan making reference to a local joke from Haliburton, Duchene's hometown. /Photo from Matt Duchene's Instagram page

Seventeen members of the Oshawa Lady Generals Bantam A team, including Minden player Sterling Nesbitt, were thrilled to be gifted a Haliburton Dinner Jacket each from Haliburton's V&S Stedman's to wear to an Ottawa Senators game in the new year. The girls will have the chance to meet and have a team pic with Matt Duchene, an Ottawa Senators player from Haliburton, after the game. /Submitted photo



Women Who Care about dental health

At their fourth meeting of the year, 52 members of giving circle/fundraising group 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County chose to support Volunteer Dental Outreach with their collective donation, a total of \$5,050. Joan Featherstone, left, and Tina Palmer, in chair, of 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County joined Sandra Slauenwhite-Box of Volunteer Dental Outreach (VDO) and 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County, and Lisa Kerr, Alana Bannister, Melanie Aldom and Brigitte Gebauer of VDO to celebrate the donation. "They come from the county so they know what the needs of the county are," said Featherstone of the Women Who Care members, who join at one-hour meetings to hear from group nominated charities, choosing one charity to give their amassed donations of up to \$100 each. They meet again in March and welcome new members. For more info, contact curriejif@gmail.com. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Wishing You A Safe & Happy Holiday

Holiday Hours

Please note the office of the Haliburton County Echo will be closed
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The Minden Times will be Closed
December 25th & 26th
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Another Christmas Column

AMANDA DUNCOMBE-LEE

Special to The Echo

When asked if I wanted to write a column on the holidays, I was enthusiastic but admit I briefly hesitated. What can I write about this time of year that has not already been done to excess?

Gift-giving etiquette, event planning, tree decorating, rum ball recipes, the true meaning of Christmas, the commercialization of Christmas, Millennials do Christmas...the list goes on.

Have your eyes already glazed over? I don't blame you. With all the hurry and stress that the holiday season brings, perhaps you only have time to skim the paper.

Like many, I am a procrastinator when it comes to this epic holiday. The Christmas tree, if we manage to get one in time before the big day, is usually pint-sized, and covered in the same old faded egg-carton ornaments from my eldest son's daycare craft making session, circa 2012.

Wall décor is limited to some streamers recycled from an old birthday party. They're a lovely shade of off-white, to match the faded egg carton ornaments.

My holiday mix is a CD that was given to me from a friend some 10 years ago, filled with indie artists I'm still not hip enough to recognize.

Every year I promise to make gingerbread from scratch, and every year I end up buying the same pre-baked, overpackaged gingerbread house kit. It tastes like cardboard but nobody's heartbroken, and I have more time to weave one of my famous intricate holiday wreaths.

And by wreath, I mean three cedar branches stuck in a planter and strangled with recycled ribbon. I justify my pitiable display with the thought of a few less garbage bags in the landfill, though this may speak more to my affinity for hoarding junk than buying less of it.

Another trendy Christmas cynic, you say? Nah, I'm just not very excitable. My family was never very sentimental, and for better or for worse, it seems I've inherited this trait.

As a child, I was puzzled by movies that referenced the "magic" of Christmas as if it were something that just existed objectively, like gravity or taxes, and resented the marketing campaigns that told us that everyone could tap into it if they just tried hard enough (or rather, just bought enough).

But like many adults, weathered and painfully aware of humanity's shortcomings, I now welcome the opportunity once a year to suspend my disbelief and actively seek out that magic – and maybe even help others who might be struggling to find it.

Indeed, I have felt a push lately to develop more of our own rituals for this time-honoured holiday, beyond just watching that rather terrifying Rudolph movie every year.

One thing we cherish as a family is getting out into the community. Whether it's the Festival of the Trees in Minden, the Santa Claus Parade, Wanakita's Breakfast with Santa or the many craft fairs in the county, there's something special about small-town gatherings. Everywhere you look there are people smiling, chatting and laughing, and I have to admit that something about witnessing this shared warmth on a frigid day during the darkest part of the year does feel a little magical.

These heartfelt festivities bring the community together in a way that's just not possible in big cities, bringing out that sense of wonder in all of us that lies dormant for most of the year. I try to savour those vivid moments, knowing that by mid-January we'll all be cursing our credit card bills, bloated stomachs and dilapidated trees. Because if there is one thing I know to be most definitely, objectively real, it is the post-holiday crash. But for now, I'm happy to be entranced by the season.



Santa comes to Todd's

West Guilford's Josh Trigell, 7, made sure to share a seat with Santa Claus, at Todd's Independent Grocer. Not only was Santa there, but the Haliburton fire department was outside collecting toys for the annual toy drive. /DARREN LUM Staff



Drumming in the holidays

Stuart Baker Elementary School's Grade 2 students from left, Chris Bailey, Dezmend Rebelo, Ethan DeCarlo, Josh Trigell, Ben Mee, Geet Patel and Dakota Billings-Glover create music with their boomwhackers for the Boomwhacker Christmas Song during the annual Holiday Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at JDHES./DARREN LUM Staff



JDHES celebrates the holidays

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School student Grace Judge sings Silent Night, ending this year's holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 21 in the school's gym. Parents, guardians and loved ones packed the gym to watch singing, dance and instrumental performances from the school band in the annual student show./DARREN LUM Staff



Stuart Baker Elementary School Grade 1 and 2 students perform the Syncopated Clock Parachute Dance.



Stuart Baker Elementary School Grade 3 student Kemauhl Casey raises his arms.



J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School's Grade 4 French Immersion class sings Petit Garçon.



Stuart Baker Elementary School student Brianna Vandestarr shows off her medal for participating in the Santa Shuffle.



Santa shuffle

Stuart Baker Elementary School students back row from left, Skye Upton, Ethan Rowe, Noah Pothaar, Annika Gervais, Harper Gooley, Deagan Davison; front row, from left, Brooklyn Bjelis, Calvin Brown, Madison DeCarlo, Nash Wilson, Sophie Gooley and Duncan Evans-Fockler show off their medals for participating in the Santa Shuffle run on Monday, Dec. 4. This event helped to kick off the "Season of Giving" effort to encourage donations to the 4Cs food bank. The entire school ran, wearing seasonal clothing, including Santa hats, elf hats and reindeer antlers. The medals were donated by the Peterborough Salvation Army's major Bert Sharp facilitated by SBES teacher Stephanie Metzger, who ran the Santa Shuffle held in Peterborough./Submitted by Stephanie Metzger


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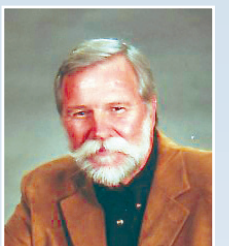
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Haliburton Highlands Secondary School showed its spirit with a pep rally.

Lifting spirits

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's principal Dan Marsden looks for a rebound during a game between the Red Hawks junior boys basketball team and faculty/administration, as part of the high school's Red and White Day earlier this month to celebrate Canada's 150. There were national birthday themed events held throughout the Trillium Lakelands District School Board. The local high school's event included a variety of activities from games, trivia, a spirit rally, face painting and bake sale. The day started off with a surprise breakfast for students, organized and run by faculty and administration. The school's youth service group Rotary Interact were active in running the event. /DARREN LUM Staff



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School teachers Amy Klose, far left, and Rob Gervais, far right, position for a rebound while Red Hawks guard Brian Kim leaps for the ball during a game between the Red Hawks junior boys basketball team and faculty/administration.

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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Sharp pain
 - 5. Military hats
 - 11. Software app on a network (abbr.)
 - 14. Genus of freshwater mussels
 - 15. Continent
 - 16. Afghani monetary unit
 - 17. Recovered
 - 19. Ribonucleic acid
 - 20. Refers to end of small intestine
 - 21. Ethiopia's largest lake
 - 22. Hostelry
 - 23. Defunct American automaker
 - 25. Denotes origin by birth or descent
 - 27. Part of a watch
 - 31. Stare with mouth open wide
 - 34. Found in granite
 - 35. Competing
 - 38. Stone film "___ Given Sunday"
 - 39. Junction between two nerve cells
 - 41. Greek goddess of the dawn
 - 42. Fight
 - 44. Thin, narrow piece of wood or metal
 - 45. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
 - 46. Type of kitchenware
 - 49. Specialty of The Onion
 - 51. Major Mexican river
 - 55. Kilometers per hour
 - 56. Species of mackerel
 - 60. Bones
 - 61. Interest rate
 - 62. New York Mets legend
 - 64. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
 - 65. Shawl
 - 66. Gracefully thin
 - 67. Type of deciduous tree
 - 68. Not classy
 - 69. Taro corm or plant
- 3. More pleasant
 - 4. Type pf painting
 - 5. Witness
 - 6. Harm
 - 7. Builder of Arantea (Greek myth.)
 - 8. City in India
 - 9. Used to unlock cans
 - 10. Induces sleep
 - 11. More bouncy
 - 12. A branch of Islam
 - 13. White (French)
 - 18. Legal term
 - 24. Covered with frost
 - 26. Hengyang Nanyue Airport
 - 28. Wash
 - 29. Disorder of the scalp
 - 30. North American tree
 - 31. Helps cars run
 - 32. Mandela's party
 - 33. Aromatic plant of the daisy family
 - 36. Negative
 - 37. College student educator (abbr.)
 - 39. Most rare
 - 40. Harm with a knife
 - 43. Folk singer DiFranco
 - 45. Return to
 - 47. One who repairs
 - 48. Eastern England river
 - 49. Hockey players need two
 - 50. Dismay
 - 52. Rebuke
 - 53. Plant of the arum family
 - 54. Fish genus
 - 57. Plant of the mallow family
 - 58. Amounts of time
 - 59. 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 - 63. One of Napoleon's generals

Answers on page 20

Being Santa

I DON'T KNOW what got into my good friend, Twindle Mumbly. When it comes to being kind and generous...not kind OF generous...I mean, extremely kind AND generous...being that way got him into a whole lot of trouble, don'tcha know.

It all started last Wednesday when six-year-old Eloise Bunting dropped her beloved teddy bear, Freddie, at the Lake WhaddayathinkImean General Store. Her mother, Val, busy talking to Elmer Struthers (owner of the store) about her overdue account, lost eye contact with her daughter. It was Twindle who picked the tiny toy bear off the weath-
ered floor and handed the treasure back to little Eloise. From her vantage point, Twindle, all five feet of him, looked like a towering figure with grannie glasses, a fuzzy white beard and mous-
tache, a red tuque with a big white ball at its peak, and a big red down-filled winter jacket and snow pants.

"Santa?" Eloise said.
"Santa! Santa!"

Why if Twindle didn't gush crimson. I know. I was there buying baking supplies and tires and saw the whole thing.

"No, no, I'm not Santa. I'm Twindle. Twindle Mumbly."

"Santa! Santa!" she insisted, opening her arms for a hug.

"Eloise!" shouted Val Bunting. "Stop bothering the nice man."

Val marched over and swept Eloise up in her arms. I could see that her eyes were puffy with tears she was trying to hide. "Mr. Mumbly," she told Twindle softly, "I'm so sorry my little girl's been bothering you."

"It's Santa, Mommy," her little one said.

"No, Eloise, it's Twindle Mumbly... the nice man who owns the Haber-dashery and Taxidermy store down the street."

Twindle, who's normally shy than a teenage boy with acne, turned into a prince, trying his best to alleviate Val Bunting's distress.

"Why, she needed a hand, that's all. Seems her teddy bear jumped out of her arms and wanted to take a walk."

The unhappy woman broke into a smile.

Twindle and I learned later, that Val's husband, Morty, was two provinces away working on the only construc-
tion job he could find. Now, he was sev-
eral weeks late with his share of food money. Elmer Struthers was being as patient as Elmer Struthers, having let her run a tab at the store that was now over-
due. Val was working two part-time jobs and taking care of her ailing mother and little girl. Baby sitters and everyday expenses cost far more than she was able to earn. But, she kept keeping on, being as good a mom and provider as she could be to Eloise, and as caring a daughter to her mother.

"Maybe I can be their Santa this year," Twindle told me, suddenly morphing into a 16 foot Hercules with glasses. Well, that's how he appeared to ol' Maybelle, don'tcha know.

"They need help," he said, "and cheering up... and I can't think of a bet-
ter way to spend my time right now." Twindle had not only come up to the plate, he was sending it sailing across

the universe.

"First thing, I'll pay Elmer what the family owes. Next, I'll ask you and the rest of our friends to help me put a big bag of Christmas presents together. Warm clothes, mitts, jackets, boots, and toys. Lots and lots of toys. Will you do that for me, Maybelle?"

"Yesssss!" I said. The happiest heart-
iest yes I had uttered in years. If you could have seen that "yes" it would have been neon and framed with fire-
works.

Oh, what a whirlwind of energy our little group was: Vilma Yuccch, Officer Stanley Penelope McBottom, Sybil Beau-
cannon Hughes, Bean-
pole Starkman and me. Move over Santa's elves. Here comes the Lake WhaddayathinkImean Christmas Brigade! Why, we were buying, collect-
ing, and wrapping gifts like nobody's business. If only we had known what Twindle was about to do next, we would have nailed his shoes to the floor, with him in them, but we didn't so ...

Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the Bunting's house, not a creature was stirring...except Twindle Mum-
bly dressed as Santa Claus, standing on the top of their roof, holding a huge red sack filled with Christmas gifts, look-
ing down into a looming darkened chimney. Having only read about San-
ta's descent in children's books, Twin-
dle blindly trusted that he would eas-
ily slide down this narrow space and be greeted at the other end by a saucer of milk and cookies. And maybe a dog with his head cocked to one side try-
ing to decide whether to announce his arrival or eat him.

There he was, at two o'clock in the morning, half way down the Buntings' soot-filled chimney, stuck in place like sardines in a tin! As hard as he tried, Twindle could not budge. His padded Santa suit filled every inch of the space hugging it so tightly that after seem-
ingly hours of struggling (actually five minutes), he was forced to do the only thing he could do. Scream: "Helllllll-
ppppp! Help meeeeee!"

Blender, the Buntings' 50 pound shep-
herd/huskie mix, was in good form that night and howled until Val ran in wield-
ing a baseball bat. Little Eloise, having inherited her father's ability to sleep in a wind-tunnel, was still in dreamland.

So, there was Val Bunting shouting back and forth with this unknown crea-
ture in her chimney.

Later that night, after the Lake WhaddayathinkImean firefighters had freed Twindle and were more than sat-
isfied with his Robinhood-like inten-
tions, he and Val had a heartfelt chat and more than one cup of tea.

Christmas meant more to all of us this year, especially to little Eloise Bunting who knew from the start that the nice man in the Lake WhaddayathinkImean General Store who rescued her teddy bear, Freddie, was Santa. The real Santa. And, you know what? I think she was right.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. Jerelyn's novel, Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon, is available at amazon.com.

Maybelle's



Fireside stories

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

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"The voice of the Highlands"

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Board will reduce its teaching staff by total of five

Declining enrolment throughout the county school system, coupled with a board decision to reduce the number of grades at the Dorset school, will mean five fewer teaching jobs in Haliburton County next year.

At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education supported recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the Dorset school reduced by four grades, a move that will mean the loss of two teaching jobs. The committee also recommended a reduction of one teacher at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School, one at Archie Stouffer public

school in Minden, and one at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for a total reduction of five teaching positions.

The move does not mean that five teachers will be fired, however. Voluntary retirements and resignations will make up some, if not all of the five positions that will be lost.

The cutbacks in teaching positions are part of an ongoing trend that is expected to continue over the next few years, until the number of students entering and leaving the school system reaches an approximate equilibrium. Declining enrolment is also likely to force further changes in the present school system as the board reduces the number of grades in outlying schools, or closes them completely.

For the moment, however, the change at Dorset is the only one the board will implement for the 1981-82 school year.

The special projects committee, in its report to the board, recommended no changes at Wilberforce or Victoria Street schools. Gooderham school will continue to operate in its present Kindergarten to Grade 4 arrangement, at least until the end of the next school year, by which time the special projects committee will recommend whether the school should be closed or remain unchanged.

Cardiff school will also operate unchanged next year. Staffing in all county schools is considered by the committee on an annual basis.

Cummins gets council seat left by Elliott

In a long, drawn-out process, Larry Cummins has finally made it to council.

This week, Cummins was appointed to Anson, Hindon and Minden council to fill a vacancy created when councillor-elect Dean Elliott was forced to resign because of a possible conflict of interest with his justice of the peace duties.

Cummins, a local businessman, first put his name before the public in the November 10 municipal elections. On election night when the votes were counted, he tied with Ed Pergolas for the last seat on council.

Two weeks later, when the recount was scheduled, Cummins lost the council seat by four votes. However, about the same time, Elliott was forced to resign and a vacancy was created at the council table. Although council was not legally bound to appoint the next closest candidate, it decided at its inaugural meeting, last Tuesday, to appoint Cummins to the position.

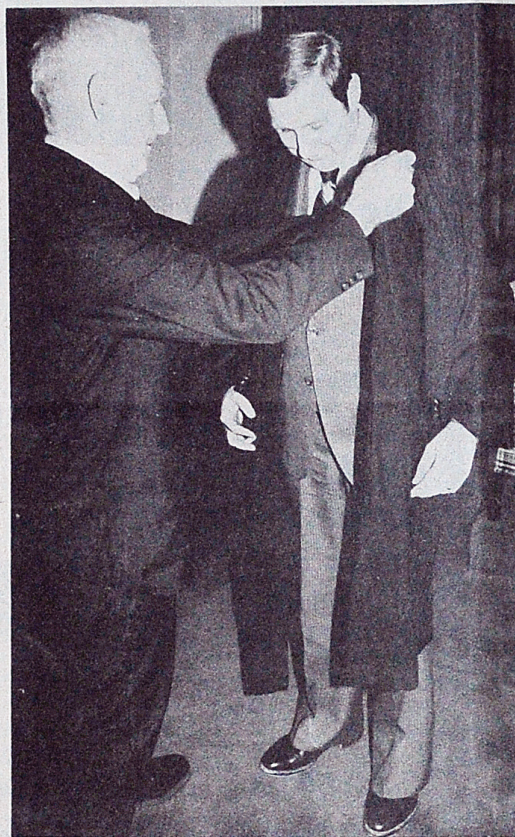
"It certainly was a long process; well I'm kind of glad the way things turned out," Cummins said in a telephone interview Monday.

Cummins said he felt council had made the right move by selecting the next closest candidate at the polls since it was so close to election time. "It shows they're thinking of the people, not themselves," Cummins said.

In the next two years, Cummins said he would do his best to help run the municipality for the people and work for the betterment of the community.

Although Cummins said he did not have any specific projects he would like to see get underway immediately, he will be spending his first months on council learning

Cont'd. page 3



Murray Fearrey, right, was elected as Haliburton County warden on Monday night. Here, Malcolm McGillivray, 1980 warden, helps Fearrey on with the warden's robe.

Fearrey is new county warden, says 1981 will prove 'difficult'

Good forest management programs should be strived for in 1981 according to Murray Fearrey, new warden for Haliburton County.

At county council's inaugural meeting Monday night, Fearrey told the members of council that they should work towards establishing forest management programs, making the planning strategy a worthwhile document, and creating good working relationships with the county's unionized workers.

Another important issue to face the council will be dealing with problems facing the local OPP detachment. At a recent meeting of Dysart et al council, where Fearrey is reeve, the detachment sergeant spoke of staffing and distance problems faced by the local force. The sergeant

was attending that meeting as local businessmen were concerned with the policing of the village.

During his speech Fearrey said the OPP's concerns should be investigated so the "whole county can have what it deserves".

In the year ahead, the county will be facing difficult economic times as high interest rates, declining lumber industry and construction effect the county, Fearrey told his councillors.

"1981 will prove to be a difficult year," he said. He noted the county is facing another winter of high unemployment as well as having a "famous" low annual income.

Cont'd. page 3

New councillors assigned duties

Minden sets committee positions

Council representatives were appointed to many area committees at the inaugural meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden council last Tuesday.

As part of the official ceremony, members of council were named to represent council on certain committees.

Newly-elected councillor Ed Pergolas was appointed to the Minden and District Horticultural Society. Also newly-elected reeve, Lloyd Walker, was named the Industrial development contact for 1981 and to the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP). Serving with Walker on the OHRP committee will be

deputy-reeve Doug Pritchard, councillor Lyle McKnight and municipal law enforcement officer, Dick Schell.

Walker and McKnight will also be acting as liaison with the Red Cross Society for the next year.

Enforcement officer Schell

Cont'd. page 3

Future will depend on enrolment

Dorset school not closed at least for 1981-82 term

Dorset parents have won a partial victory in their fight to keep the public school in that community open. At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education approved recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the school reduced from a full nine grades to a Kindergarten to Grade 4 facility.

The decision means two of the school's four classrooms will be closed, and that two of its four teachers will no longer be needed. The teachers will be absorbed into the county public school system, but the net result will be two fewer teaching jobs.

The decision may not have entirely pleased Dorset parents, but it did stave off the closing of the school for at least another year. Its long term future will now depend on the community's growth, or lack of it.

In recommending the change, the committee, in a report to the board, noted that the compromise would allow younger children to be educated in the community while at the same time providing students in Grade 5 and beyond a chance for a broader educational experience.

Those students will be educated in Muskoka; with the majority of them expected to go to Irwin Memorial School in Dwight, 11 miles from Dorset.

The committee also noted that keeping the school open would enable the board and the community to assess the growth or decline of the student population on a yearly basis to determine if the school should continue to function.

Dorset parents and local politicians have been opposed to the possible closure of the school on the grounds that it would hurt the community's attractiveness to potential newcomers. More recently, they have expressed a feeling that the community could grow in the immediate future because of the provincial government's commitment to increase research into the acid rain phenomenon.

In recommending a reduction in the number of grades at the school, instead of complete closure, the committee acknowledged area parents' and politicians' fears that if the school were closed, it would never be reopened.

Besides providing increased educational opportunities for senior students, the change to a K-to-4 school will save the board money, the committee report notes. It says caretaking, heating and electrical costs will be cut when two of the school's four

classrooms are taken out of service, and that expenditures for teachers salaries will be reduced by more than 50 percent. In addition, the committee said, the board may be able to rent out the two unused classrooms to further offset operating costs.

The net saving is expected to be greater than busing costs and fees to the Muskoka Board brought about by the transfer of students to Irwin Memorial school.

Before the board voted on the committee's recommendations, members of the Dorset parents group reminded trustees that the original decision to examine the future of the school had been prompted by a projected drop in enrolment that has not yet come about, and that the parents feel will not materialize, especially if the acid rain laboratory is expanded.

Parents also expressed concern about Irwin Memorial school's ability to handle an influx of more than 20 senior students from Dorset.

A third concern centred on the problem of French. Muskoka schools begin French instruction in Kindergarten, whereas the Haliburton County Board provide French in Grade 5 and beyond.

Feeling that Dorset students would be at a distinct disadvantage when they moved on to Irwin Memorial, the parents asked board members if French could be taught from Kindergarten onward at the Dorset school, using one of the two remaining teachers.

Director of Education J. Douglas Hodgson indicated that the request could not be considered, however, because the education act re-

quires boards to provide equal educational opportunity to all its students. The board can begin French instruction in any grade it chooses under the regulations, he said, but it must offer it in all schools at that grade. Thus an exception could not be made at the Dorset school, even if the board wanted to do so.

Trustee Earl Cooper felt

Cont'd. page 3

Echo will not publish in Christmas week

Because Christmas falls in mid week this year and in order that our staff members may enjoy the holidays, the Haliburton County Echo will publish early Christmas week. The Echo will be published on Monday, December 22, 1980. The deadline for display and classified advertising as well as for editorial submissions for that issue will be 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20.

There will be no Echo published the week between Christmas and New Year's. Our office will be closed from December 23 through January 1 inclusive.

We thank you for your cooperation on these altered deadlines, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Students at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School were warming up for Christmas holidays last week. Mrs. Carters grade seven class proudly displays their season's greetings.

Employment situation 'bleak' but new program could help

by Sue Cooper

Although there may be a few more people looking for work this year, the unemployment rate is about average for this time of year, according to the manpower Outreach office in Haliburton village.

Even though the winter months are generally a slow time in the Highlands, Manager Jayne Heppleston said the number of unemployed might be slightly higher this season.

"Things are looking a little bleak at the moment, but you know, the next day they could turn around and we could have orders for five casuals," Heppleston said in a telephone interview Monday.

Although all unemployment insurance applications are filtered through the local office, there is no way of determining the number of people on claims in the county," Heppleston said.

"It's about average for this time of year - maybe a little bit tighter this year because there hasn't been as much construction," she said.

However, there is a possibility that 28 more jobs will be made available in the county this winter as the federal government's Canadian Community Development Program gets underway, Heppleston said.

This program will help out through the winter months and replaces the former Canada Works program, which was not available last year. Although the program will

not effect the largest unemployment area the county has, it will provide work for women, youth, native Canadians and the handicapped, Heppleston said.

"It's mainly for women, youth and physically handicapped, so it's not even going to reach a target that we're hefty in," Heppleston added.

The project will, however, add a welcome relief during

Cont'd. page 3

Santa to make special visit to Haliburton this Saturday

Santa Claus is coming to town and not just on Christmas Eve. This year, at the special request of the Rotary Club of Haliburton and the Haliburton Legion Branch 129, Santa has agreed to take a couple of hours off from his preparations and visit with boys and girls in Haliburton village.

Santa will arrive at the Legion hall at 12 noon and will greet the children to be sure

he's made note of their wishes for his visit Wednesday night before Christmas. And he's also said he'll be handing out presents to all the youngsters who turn up to meet him at the Legion.

At 1 p.m., there'll be more entertainment for the children, as well as a movie to top off the afternoon's activities.

Don't miss Santa's special visit to Haliburton.



Sir Sams had best opening weekend over

White Christmas all but certain

If this week's weather is an indication of things to come, all those who dream of a white Christmas should get their wish. A total of up to 40 cm. of snow (16 inches) has fallen on the Highlands since last Monday, and more is expected later in the week. Snowdepths now range up to 55 cm. in northern sections of the county.

Highest temperature recorded over the Monday to Monday period was 1C. Tuesday, December 9. The lowest was a bone chilling - 30C Thursday, December 11, and it was equalled Monday, December 15.

All lakes in the county are now frozen. Smaller lakes which froze several weeks ago now have up to five inches of ice. Larger lakes generally have thinner ice and lake travel is still considered hazardous.

The snow has been a boon to skiers and conditions for both cross country and downhill are now excellent.

Snowmobile trails are not yet open.

A gradual warming trend is expected for later in the week, with more snow likely by Friday.



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UPCOMING
Community
Events

Haliburton Pastoral Charge, New Years Eve Services

Morning Service-Joint Service for Ingoldsby and Lochlin United Churches
When: Dec. 31, 9 a.m. singing, 9:30 a.m. service
Where: Ingoldsby United Church, 1741 Ingoldsby Rd., Minden
Contemporary Service
When: Dec. 31, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church

Legion Branch 624, Wilberforce

When: Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to close
New Year's Eve Dance, DJ Mike
And on Jan. 1, New Year's Day, President's Levee 1:30 p.m.

Therapeutic Touch® Level 1

When: Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018
Learn a holistic, evidenced based therapy that provides relaxation in any situation and boosts the immune system for improved healing, health and well being.
Level 1 introduces the method and the human energy system with hands on practice.
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Therapeutic Touch® Level 2 Workshop

When: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, 8:30-5:30 p.m.
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Level 2 provides an in depth look at the process and its efficacy with hands on practice.
Contact: Susan Keith at 705-457-3981 or email: ch.concepts@sympatico.ca

Legion Branch 129, Haliburton

When: Saturday, Jan. 20, 4 to 7 p.m.
Live entertainment featuring Jeff Moulton in the Club Room. Enjoy a delicious meal for only \$6 prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary. \$5 cover charge for non-members.

Family arrives for Christmas

community news
west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

The Community Centre is busy at the end of the month with Christmas dinners. Lyle and Carol Stamp's family has grown significantly to overflow their home for the festive meal. Their family will be together on Dec. 30. The Upton Christmas dinner will be held on Dec. 29, again because of the happy problem of too many people! Up to 50 may come. Our own household will expand to 12 for Christmas Day dinner and include three Smyth cousins, Pat, Rod and Ron as well as three Alan Coopers, Beth from St. Catharines and of course George and

Shireen who plan to cook the big bird at their place and transport it across the road when dinner time comes.

I wish each of the readers of this column a happy festive day and prosperity and peace in the coming year. Do not hesitate to phone me after the event to tell me who came and from where and any pertinent family news. Much appreciated.

Vicki Sisson, past president of Rails End Gallery, informs that the whole gallery was transformed into an attractive gift shop. Members show features the elements, Fire, Air, Earth, Water. Submissions for show are to be in by Jan. 13.

Medeba's complimentary Christmas dinner for Guilford residents and beyond on Dec. 16 was very well attended. Food band gifts piled up, so thanks to all contributors.

Euchre Scores:

High: Perry and Kay Morrison

Low: Ed Muenzel and Ron Bain

Most Lone Hands: Neil Moore and Ruth Fletcher

Best wishes to Rev. Anne Moore

community news
wilberforce

Hilda Clark
448-2018

An interesting program was presented by the students of the Wilberforce Elementary School on Thursday, Dec. 21 on the Lloyd Watson memorial stage here in the village. Always an exciting time for the students as they sing and act out their parts in their annual concert. Always a special time for family members and friends who come to support and applaud the student efforts and show gratitude for the leadership and guidance the

staff has provided.

As they enjoy their Christmas break we wish the students and staff a pleasant time away from their school work.

Among the Christmas services at local churches, Christmas Day service at St. Margaret's was the final one for 2017 and the last one the Rev. Canon Anne Moore will lead there. After nearly nine years here in the Parish of Haliburton Rev. Anne will be retiring on Dec. 31.

On Sunday, Dec. 31 there will be no service at St. Margaret's. Members will join with St. George's Haliburton for a joint service at 10:30 a.m. At a luncheon following that service parishioners will say goodbye to Canon Anne Moore and celebrate her ministry in this area.

Hope all of our readers are enjoying a pleasant festive season. We are always pleased to hear from you with news and greeting. Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2018.

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The Municipality of Dysart et al
Wishes you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

NOTICE:

Christmas Hours & Closures

Dysart et al Municipal Office

will be CLOSED from

Monday, December 25th, 2017

To

Monday, January 1st, 2018

The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2 @ 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Break Shinny and Public Skating Hours at the A.J. LaRue Arena

Shinny: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Full equipment required, \$5 per person)

Public Skating: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

December 27, 28, 29, 31

January 2, 3, 4, 5



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Shinny: December 22, 29 and January 5

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm (Full equipment required, \$5 per person)

For further information please contact the A.J. LaRue Arena at (705) 457-2083.

All Landfills will be CLOSED on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



The gang's all here

One festive home on Park Street has blown away the competition with its inflatable Christmas characters. The yard boasts more than a dozen inflatables including Santa, Dory, Sven, and a jolly minion. /OLIVIA ROBINSON Special to the Echo

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Contractors' breakfast

Cordell Carpet hosted their annual Contractors' Breakfast on Thursday, Dec. 14 at their Haliburton store. The event was well attended and included giveaways from Cordell's main suppliers. /LAURA SMITH Staff

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640 IN MEMORIAM

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640 IN MEMORIAM

640 IN MEMORIAM

In memory of
Steven Gregory Kurtz
RNC, BFA
1967 ~ 2014


We who love you, sadly miss you.
As it dawns another year,
In our lonely hours of thinking,
Thoughts of you are ever near.
"Forever Missed"

Patrick, Collin, Dan, Lisa,
Valerie, Miles, Gail, Gordon




650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Angus "Gus" George MacInnes
Died peacefully in Haliburton on December 17th surrounded by family at the age of 83.



Gus is survived by his loving life partner Carole Sicard, his children Wade (Julie), Jennifer (Ed), Darren (Rose), Jeanette (Drew), Michael (Crystal), & Duane MacInnes (Jacquie)- his step-children Larry, Corrine, Wendy, Terry and Kevin Sicard. He is survived by his many loving grandchildren Shawn, Jade, Donovan, Stephanie, Madison, Courtney, Louis, Tyler, Josh, Cassandra, Whitney, Rebecca, Mollie, Lexanne, Keifer, Payton, and step grandchildren Natasha, Brittany, Ryan, Clay and his many great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his mother Barbara, and his father Charles.

"Gus" was born on May 31, 1934 in Toronto. After moving to Haliburton, he worked as a mechanic, until he opened up MacInnes Motor Works. For over 30 years, he served the community diligently, and reliably. His children remember him as a strong-willed man, who always provided for his family, and helped others no matter the task. He built a reputation as a loving father, and a being an integral member of the town.

A celebration of life is to be announced at a later date, in Haliburton. Cremation has taken place. The family would like to thank Dr. Norman Bottum, and all the staff at the Haliburton Hospital, for their efforts, care, and dedication.

Memorial Donations to the 4 C's would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd.
www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



The Haliburton Real Estate Team

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LINDA BAUMGARTNER
Broker - Team Leader

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Custom designed 2 story cottage with four bedrooms. Recently built single garage. Great spot for relaxation with well treed privacy and excellent beach.

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SALERNO LAKE



Fully winterized three bedroom log cottage on Salerno Lake. Interior is finished with cozy pine w/ vaulted ceilings for spacious feel. 167' of secluded waterfront located in a small cove providing nice safe swimming.

\$449,000

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Enjoy cottage living with this cozy 4 season cottage and large bunkie with many upgrades. Municipal access to Miskwabi Lake across the road.

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Maple Lake Access .79 Acres...\$34,500
North Shore Road 2.8 Acres....\$49,000
Miskwabi Lake Access.98 Acres..\$59,000



Happy New Year!

To all of our Clients & Colleagues,
Friends & Family,

We wish you the very best for
health & prosperity in 2018!

Linda, Karen, Marion & Dana
The Haliburton Real Estate Team



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SOYERS LAKE








Stunning Timberframe 4 bdrm waterfront cottage/home on Soyers Lake. Quality finishing inside & out. Oversized insulated double det'd garage. Enjoy peace & quiet in this tranquil bay w/little boat traffic & easy access to the 5 lk chain.

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